FIRE FACT NO. 046 CHECKLIST(s) : 99
TITLE : CLASS I STANDPIPE IN LIEU OF CLASS II, WHEN
CHECKLIST ITEM(s) : 99-19
REFERENCE(s) : 91-101/31-1.3

Synopsis:

Where Class II standpipe systems are required by Chapter 9 Uniform Building Code, a minimum of a Class I dry standpipe system shall be allowed by the Kansas State Fire Marshal to replace the Class II system. This would be conditioned upon: 1) the Class I dry standpipe is designed in accordance with either NFPA 14 or the Uniform Building/Uniform Fire Code and equipped with 2 1/2 inch fittings, valves and piping located as for Class II standpipes, and 2) the local fire department concurrence.

Background:

Pursuant to K.S.A. 31-133(a), The Kansas State Fire Marshal shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations for safeguarding life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion. Such rules and regulations shall include... the installation and maintenance of equipment intended for fire control, detection and extinguishment. (K.S.A. 31-133(a)(4)).

Pursuant to the Kansas Fire Prevention Code, the Kansas State Fire Marshal adopts the 1997 Uniform Building Code (UBC) as minimum construction requirements. Section 104.2.8 of the UBC-91 permits the acceptance of alternative provisions that provide equivalent protection. NFPA-101 Section 1-6 contains similar provisions.

Throughout Kansas, local fire departments utilize their own hoses and nozzles, thus do not rely on standpipe hoses found in buildings. The Departments train and utilize 1 1/2 inch or larger hoses that they routinely test. In several situations, the Kansas State Fire Marshal has permitted the removal of existing standpipe hoses with the concurrence of local fire department officials.

The Kansas State Fire Marshal has, and will continue to, place emphasis on exiting and safe evacuation from a building, rather than expecting suppression efforts by building occupants. We do not encourage occupants to stop and fight a fire, nor are we currently actively enforcing the maintenance and upkeep of standpipe hoses or employee training on proper use. We believe having untrained personnel use the equipment in an emergency may create more hazard and obstruction to building occupants, thus impeding the speedy exiting from the building. Further, once provided, annual testing, documentation and training are required.

In an actual fire emergency, the local fire departments will rely on their own engines and hoses to control an incident. A properly located Class I dry standpipe would be utilized by the local department whereas a Class II standpipe may not.